

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Clark Smith; Mr. David Osborne; Dr. Yan Sun, and Mr. Michael Fain. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Brad

Wilson, Director of Student Services were also in attendance.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

Ms. Patricia Harwood, 56 Allen Drive, discussed the email that she sent to the Committee last night on behalf of the EGSELAC. The group wants to ensure that special education students receive a high quality education and the group would like to work collaboratively with the School Committee in an advisory role and asked for a spot on the School Committee agenda. Committee members were also invited to attend EGSELAC meetings.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Budget Workshop for January 29, 2015

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Smith, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the budget workshop minutes for January 29, 2015. Mr. Osborne abstained.

b. Regular and Executive for February 3, 2015

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes for February 3, 2015.

c. Executive and Budget Workshop for February 10, 2015

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the executive session minutes for February 10, 2015. Dr. Gifford abstained. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the budget workshop minutes for February 10, 2015.

V. Superintendent's Report

There is a Leadership RI visit tomorrow at the EGHS at 7:30 a.m. The second public forum to discuss school start times will take place on Thursday, February 26th at

7:00 p.m. in the Cole library. The group will meet at 5:30 p.m. prior to the forum to discuss transportation with Deb Murphy of Ocean State Transit. The Ad Hoc Calendar Committee is holding a public forum tomorrow, Wednesday, February 25th at 9:30 a.m. in the EGHS cafeteria. On Thursday, February 26th, a representative from RIDE and members of a public work team for RIDE's strategic plan are holding a work session in the Cole cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Mercurio

will offering greetings to the group.

Starting in the fall, the College Board will only offer PSAT testing on a Wednesday during school. This revision in schedule will pose significant challenges for the EGHS. Dr. Mercurio has already spoken with Deputy Commissioner Abbott about this matter and will follow up with the College Board. The Rhode Island Association of School Principals will need to discuss this matter also.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Appointments

- 1. Full-Time Head Custodian-Eldredge School-Richard Waddington**
- 2. Part-Time Custodian-Central Office-John Sabalewski Jr.**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve appointments #1 and #2.

b. Parental leave-Kelly Grennan Smith- Grade 7 Teacher, Cole

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the parental leave.

c. School Committee Resolution in Support of Pending State Legislation to Fully Fund All-Day Kindergarten

Ms. Mark reached out to Tim Duffy of RIASC regarding funding of all day kindergarten. A resolution was drafted to urge the R.I. General Assembly to pass legislative proposals (S0144 and H5275) to provide state funding for school districts that have converted part-time kindergarten programs to full-time kindergarten programs.

Ms. Mark added language to the fifth and sixth paragraphs. On a

motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to support the resolution with the edits as discussed. This resolution will be shared with the Town Council.

VIII. Discussion

a. Budget FY2016

The Committee was provided with updated budget summaries noting contractual and non-contractual items. A sample of budget decreases in dollars/percentage and projected revenue was also provided. Projections for WB Health have been revised from a projected 15% increase to a 7.5% increase. Sample budget decreases, to lower the percentage/dollar increase, were provided noting the cuts that would need to be made from a 4% increase to a 2% increase. Dr. Mercurio noted the proposed FY2016 budget does not include any of the initiatives that are being studied (i.e., all-day kindergarten, school start times, school calendar changes). Dr. Mercurio explained that proposed cuts need to start as far away from the classroom as possible and noted the cuts are not insignificant and will present a challenge. Dr. Mercurio summarized increases to the budget including increasing enrollment, staffing, healthcare costs, and contractual obligations. After a lengthy conversation, Dr. Gifford asked if cuts to 1.2 million (a 2% increase) could be provided to the Committee for the next meeting. Mr. Smith was asked to reach out to former members of the Finance Committee for assistance.

b. Strategic Planning Update

Ms. Mark highlighted the strategic planning process recommendations, roles/ responsibilities for the various

stakeholders. New members will be added to Ad Hoc Committee (i.e. Town Council, community member, etc.). Ms. Mark, Mr. Osborne, and Dr. Sun will represent the School Committee. The strategic planning process will move forward once the budget process has been completed. Commitments will be confirmed with stakeholders. Ms. Mark met with district administrators, who are supportive of the process.

IX. Updates

a. Ad Hoc Committees

1. Study Start Times

A start time forum is scheduled for February 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Cole library. Dr. Mary Carskadon will present research regarding adolescents' and sleep with a question/answer period. The ad hoc committee will meet prior to the forum at 5:30 p.m. to discuss transportation with Deb Murphy from Ocean State Transit. The ad hoc committee is looking at potential options for a public presentation.

2. Academic Calendar

A public forum is scheduled for tomorrow at 9:30 in the EGHS cafeteria.

Dr. Mercurio explained changes that other districts' are making for the 2016 school year. The 2016 calendar will go for School Committee approval by the third meeting in March.

3. All-Day Kindergarten

Dr. Mercurio thanked Ms. Mark for her work on providing a finished product for the RIDE all-day kindergarten grant. Dr. Mercurio

expects an answer on the grant this week. Dr. Mercurio spoke of the importance in testifying at the state level in support of all-day kindergarten.

X. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates

a. Technology Advisory Committee

Dr. Sun, Mr. Babson, Mr. Smith, Mr. Fain, and Mrs. Schmidle met on February 18, 2015 to discuss options for recording School Committee meetings. Option #1 has a \$7,000 annual maintenance fee for Laserfiche management system, \$2500 equipment costs, and an optional management system (Novus Agenda) with a cost of \$6,000 per year. The district could share these costs with the town since the town is currently using Laserfiche. However, the district would need someone to physically operate the system. The second option is the purchase of SoniClear with equipment costs of \$3500, a \$500 annual service fee, and will need someone to physically operate the equipment. Dr. Mercurio noted his concerns with the set up/take down of equipment and finding someone to do this task. Dr. Sun was asked to research other districts' costs and the manpower used. This item will be discussed again at a future meeting.

b. Building Advisory Committee

The Committee discussed air conditioning at Cole and reviewed various proposals. Data will be collected at Cole from June to September to look at trends to come up with an action plan. The building needs for all-day kindergarten were discussed. Mr. Wilmarth spoke with Joe Duarte, who said the town could do a lot of the labor for Frenchtown. Mr. Wilmarth will provide a timeframe based on the

SBS proposals. The Capital Improvement Plan was discussed. Mr. Wilmarth will have the current plan updated to review the status.

c. Policy Subcommittee

The Committee met on January 28, 2015 and is developing a Charge, revising the Ad Hoc Selection Committee Policy, reviewing By-Laws, reviewing the Policy to Name Buildings, drafting a Professional Code of Conduct, and drafting a policy to define public comment (similar to Smithfield's).

d. Health and Wellness Subcommittee

The last meeting took place on February 4, 2015. Aramark is pursuing farm to school initiatives and March 11th is designated "Eat Healthy RI Day." An end-of-year wellness assessment will take place to look for opportunities to improve implementation throughout the district. The Mental Health Subcommittee has been active and the second First Responder Training took place today with a cross section of employees. Twenty-five people have been trained and certified throughout the district. Next year another twenty-five will be trained. The certification is good for three years.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 9:07 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY